

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 296

Expressing support for the designation of August 2008 as “National Heat Stroke Awareness Month” to raise awareness and encourage prevention of heat stroke.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. BERRY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of August 2008 as “National Heat Stroke Awareness Month” to raise awareness and encourage prevention of heat stroke.

Whereas heat stroke is a true medical emergency that can be fatal if not properly and promptly treated, and 50 percent of those with heat stroke die from it;

Whereas children absorb more heat from a hot environment because they have greater surface area-to-body mass ratio than adults;

Whereas the smaller the child, the faster he or she can overheat;

Whereas children and adolescents may have a reduced ability to dissipate heat through sweating;

Whereas children and adolescents frequently do not have the physiological drive to drink enough fluids to replenish sweat losses during prolonged exercise;

Whereas youth athletes may be more easily distracted by teammates and spectators when given the opportunity to rest and rehydrate;

Whereas a recent study found that 70 percent of afterschool athletes arrive on the playing field already dehydrated;

Whereas heat-induced illness is one of the most preventable sports ailments and parents, young athletes, and coaches need to understand the physiological factors that increase the risk for heat-related illness and take steps to prevent it;

Whereas 13-year-old Kendrick Fincher from Rogers, Arkansas, collapsed during an August pre-season football practice, was rushed to the hospital, and for the next 18 days his family waited anxiously for him to regain consciousness;

Whereas Kendrick Fincher tragically never regained consciousness, and died on August 25, 1995, from multi-system organ failure as a result of heat stroke;

Whereas Kendrick's parents, Rhonda and Mike Fincher, pressured their local school district to change its policies and procedures to provide adequate hydration during all athletic activities;

Whereas Kendrick's parents also founded the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation to raise awareness of the potentially deadly consequences of dehydration for student athletes and to provide schools with the information and equipment needed to ensure other students do not suffer from heat stroke;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation has distributed more than 130,000 water bottles and heat illness prevention pamphlets to children and athletes throughout the United States;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation oversees consultation with school district athletic programs to ensure they have procedures in place to prevent heat illness and dehydration;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation provides heat stroke awareness and steps for prevention at local health fairs, community events, and the Annual Youth Run through “cool huts”, misting stations, and free ice water;

Whereas Gatorade Company joined forces with the National Football League to lead a nationwide “Beat the Heat” campaign aimed at educating parents and football coaches about the importance of hydration in order to keep athletes safe in the hot summer months;

Whereas Gatorade Company and the National Football League held Gatorade Donation Days at training camps to raise money to raise awareness of the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation; and

Whereas as a result of the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation’s efforts, Rhonda Fincher, motivated by the belief no other parent should experience the heartache of a preventable death of his or her child, successfully changed many school athletic policies and procedures at the local, State, and national level: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) it is the sense of Congress that—

1 (A) National Heat Stroke Awareness
2 Month provides an opportunity to educate the
3 people of the United States about heat stroke;

4 (B) all Americans should applaud the
5 Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation for its
6 efforts in promoting awareness about heat
7 stroke; and

8 (C) policymakers, parents, coaches, student
9 athletes, not-for-profit organizations, and other
10 members of the community should work to in-
11 crease awareness and prevention of heat stroke;
12 and

13 (2) Congress urges national and community or-
14 ganizations, businesses in the private sector, and the
15 media, through National Heat Stroke Awareness
16 Month to promote the awareness of heat stroke.

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